

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 PM-01 SP-02 L-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 SAM-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PRS-01

/041 W

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R 181240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4599

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG

SUBJECT: GENERAL GUR AND NEGOTIATIONS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. JERUSALEM POST JULY 18 FRONT PAGES ARTICLE CAPTIONED
" MINISTRY DENIES CHIEF OF STAFF GAVE POLITICAL OPINION ON ACCORD."
THE ARTICLE CARRIES STATEMENT OF OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE BY MINDEF
SPOKESMAN WHICH" TOOK NOTE"OF STATEMENT BY EZER WEIZMAN JULY
16 THAT GENERAL GUR AND SENIRO IDF OFFICERS SUPPORTED PARTIAL
AGREEMENT WITH CAIRO, AND THEN EMPHASIZED THAT IDF IN GENERAL
AND COS IN PARTICULAR ONLY GAVE VIEWS ON" MILITARY ASPECTS" OFF
POLITICAL, SECURITY-RELATED ISSUES AND THEN ONLY WHEN THEIR VIEWS
WERE SOLICITED.
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2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE,AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY, GENERAL
GUR WAS KNOWN AS A " DOVE" AS CONCERNS THE PASSES IN CONTEXT
SECOND AGREEMENT, A POSITION WHICH BROUGH HIM UNDER RAFI
GUNS. MOR RECENTLY, GUR'S CONTINUED REFUSAL TO ALIGN HIMSELF
WITH THE MORE HARD-LINE ELEMENTS IN THE CABINET, INCLUDING HIS
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BOSSDEFMIN PRES, HAS BEEN INREASINGLY DISCUSSED PRIVATELY

HERE.(FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY ZEEV SHIFF, HIGHLY RELIABLE MILITARY CORRESPONDENT OF HAARETZ, THAT GUR, SHAFFIR(OPS CHIEF) AND DMI GAZIT WERE LEADING " DOVES" ON PASSES ISSUE IN GENERAL STAFF.)

3. AS AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO THIS SITUATION , WE WERE RECENTLY INFORMED OF FOLLOWING BY PROMINENT " MODERATE" JOURNALIST. IN MAY, GENERAL GUR INVITED THREE JOURNALISTS (INCLUDING SOURCE) TO MEET WITH HIM. HE INFORMED THEM THAT IN HIS OPINION, PASSES WERE BASICALLY POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY ISSUE, AND THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO GOVERNMENT BEFORE AND AFTER MARCH NEGOTIATION THAT ISraelI CONTROL OF PASSES WAS NOT WORTH CONFRONTATION WITH U.S. GUR REFUSED TO ALLOW PUBLICATION OF HIS VIEWS, AND STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS FOR ACCURACY OF HISTORICAL RECORD IF U.S.- ISRAELI RELATIONS CONTINUED TO DETERIORATE AS RESULT BREAKDOWN OF MARCH TALKS. END CONFIDENTIAL LIMDIS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, CABINET, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV04599
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750249-0567
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750740/aaaabkbe.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL GUR AND NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.
TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG, (GUR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006